

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system to control access from a client to a server, comprising:

a ticket granting server including a personal information database for obtaining, in response to a request from a client, personal information from the personal information database, for authenticating the personal information, and for resultantly sending a ticket to the client; and

an access control server including a server policy defining an access allowance condition for requiring of the access requesting client a ticket matching the server policy and for allowing the client an access when the required ticket is sent from the client.

2. An access control system according to claim 1, wherein the access allowance condition includes necessary information, necessity/non-necessity of authorization of the information, and necessity/non-necessity of disclosure of the information.

3. An access control system according to claim 1, wherein the ticket includes at least one personal information item, attribute information of the personal information item, information of a ticket granter, and a digital signature of the ticket granter.

4. An access control method for use in a system including a client, a www server, and a ticket granting server, comprising the steps of:

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sending by the www server having a server policy defining an access allowance condition a server policy to a client having requested an access;

obtaining by the ticket granting server, in response to a request and the server policy sent from a client, personal information from a personal information database, authenticating the personal information, and resultantly sending a ticket to the client;

sending by the client an access request with the ticket to the www server; and

allowing by the www server the client the access when the ticket matches the server policy.

5. A method of controlling an access from a client, comprising the steps of:

setting a server policy defining an access allowance condition;

requiring of the access requesting client an authenticated ticket matching the server policy; and

allowing the client an access when the required ticket is sent from the client.

6. An access control method according to claim 5, wherein the access allowance condition includes necessary information, necessity/non-necessity of authorization of the information, and necessity/non-necessity of disclosure of the information.

7. A personal information authentication method, comprising the steps of:

preparing a personal information database

including personal information;

identifying, in response to a request from a client, a person and authenticating the person;

obtaining requested information from the personal information database corresponding to the identified and authenticated person and describing the requested information on a certificate;

putting a digital signature on the certificate; and

sending the certificate to the client.

8. An authentication method according to claim 7, wherein the request from the client includes necessary information, necessity/non-necessity of authorization of the information, and necessity/non-necessity of disclosure of the information.

9. An authentication method according to claim 8, further comprising the step of confirming, when it is not necessary to disclose the information requested by the client, information in the personal information database and describing none of contents of the information on the certificate.

10. A server access method, comprising the steps of:

receiving from an access target server a server policy defining an access allowance condition;

sending to a ticket granting server a ticket granting request together with the server policy;

receiving from the ticket granting server a

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ticket including information which matches the server policy and which is authorized; and

 sending an access request to the access target server together with the ticket.

11. An access control method for use in a system including a client, a www server, and a ticket granting server, comprising the steps of:

 by the ticket granting server, receiving a ticket granting request from the client and creating in response thereto a session key, obtaining personal information from a personal information database, and sending to the client the session key and an encrypted ticket including the session key and the personal information;

 by the client, creating an authenticator by encrypting an access request time using the session key received from the ticket granting server and sending to the www server an access request together with the encrypted ticket and the authenticator; and

 by the www server, decrypting the encrypted ticket to obtain a session key, decrypting the authenticator using the session key to obtain a time, verifying the time, determining whether or not the ticket satisfies an access allowance condition, and determining allowance or denial of the access.

12. A www server, comprising:

 means for setting a server policy defining an access allowance condition;

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means for sending the server policy to a client requesting an access; and

means for allowing a client an access when a ticket matching the server policy is sent from the client.

13. A ticket granting server, comprising:
a personal information database including personal information;

means for identifying, in response to a request from a client, a person and authenticating the person;

means for obtaining requested information from information corresponding to the identified and authenticated person in the personal information database, putting a digital signature, and thereby creating a ticket; and

means for sending the ticket to the client.

14. A client, comprising:

means for receiving a server policy defining an access allowance condition from an access target server;

means for sending a ticket granting request to a ticket granting server together with the server policy;

means for receiving from the ticket granting server a ticket including information which matches the server policy and which is authorized; and

means for sending an access request to the

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sending, to a client requesting an access, a server policy to which an access allowance condition is beforehand set; and

allowing the client the access when a ticket matching the server policy is sent from the client.

16. A personal information authentication program including instructions for executing the steps of:

identifying, in response to a request from a client, a person and authenticating the person;

obtaining requested information from
information corresponding to the identified and
authenticated person in a personal information database
and describing the requested information on a certifi-
cate;

putting a digital signature on the certificate; and

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sending the certificate to the client.

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17. A server access program including instructions for executing the steps of:

receiving from an access target server a
server policy defining an access allowance condition;

 sending to a ticket granting server a ticket
granting request together with the server policy;

receiving from the ticket granting server a

ticket including information which matches the server
policy and which is authenticated; and

 sending an access request to the access
target server together with the ticket.

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